

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 12 is added, claim 5 is canceled, and claim 9 is amended to change its dependency from canceled claim 5 to pending claim 12. No new matter is added by this Amendment. Support for new claim 12 is found in original claims 1 and 5.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,498,656 (Mastie). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Mastie discloses a network printing system in which a print job is provided by a logical printer (e.g., printer manager 6), and subsequently, one logical printer is selected by the logical printer among a plurality of logical printers capable of printing the print job, on the basis of the status information for these physical printers stored in a storage device 10 in advance (e.g., the status of print queues concerning a plurality of logical printers capable of printing the print job), and subsequently, the above print job is sent to the selected physical printer. See Fig. 1 of Mastie.

In contrast, according to the subject matter recited in independent claims 1, 10, 11 and 12, association information is configured to associate information of a distribution destination with information of a printing apparatus used in the distribution destination by means of an association information holding unit, etc., unlike the disclosure and teachings of Mastie. Therefore, a specific printing apparatus can be located on the basis of the association information, and the print condition can be set when a request to print out printed data is outputted to the distribution destination from a sender. Further, the information of the distribution destination can have information of a user who uses the specific printing apparatus associated by the association information holding unit, unlike the disclosure and teachings of Mastie.

It is respectfully asserted that the above description demonstrates that the subject matter recited in at least independent claims 1, 10, 11 and 12 is not disclosed, taught or suggested by Mastie.

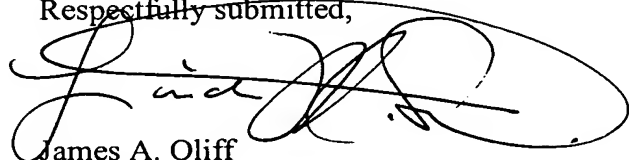
For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1, 10, 11 and 12, as well as the claims depending therefrom, be withdrawn.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Request for Continued Examination
Amendment Transmittal

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